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**SETON CATHOLIC PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Julia Barcello of Seton Catholic Preparatory High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Barcello is the third Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Seton Catholic Preparatory High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Barcello as Arizona's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Barcello joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.)

The 6-foot senior forward led the Sentinels to a 32-3 record and the Division 2 state championship this past season. Barcello averaged 14.1 points, 11.3 rebounds, 2.4 assists, 2.2 blocks and 2.1 steals per game. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she won three state titles in four varsity seasons and holds school career records for rebounds and blocked shots.

Barcello has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. A devoted member of her church community, she has served as a student mentor and a math tutor in her school.

"Barcello is a player you definitely have to plan for, defensively and offensively," said Mike Campbell, head coach at Apache Junction High. "If you manage to limit her points, she finds other ways to beat you, whether it's assists, rebounds or blocked shots. She's one of the hardest-working players I have ever coached against."

Barcello has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Colgate University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Barcello joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Players of the Year Courtney Ekmark (2012-13, Saint Mary's Catholic High School), Shilpa Tummala (2011-12, St. Mary's Catholic High School), Promise Amukamara (2010-11, Apollo High School), Rebecca Woodberry (2009-10, Tolleson), Davellyn Whyte (2008-09, St. Mary's Catholic), Amy Patton (2007-08, McClintock), and Kayla Pedersen (2006-07, Red Mountain) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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